



Burch Charter School of Excellence, 100 Linden Avenue, Irvington, NJ 07111
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Theodore E. Boler, Jr. Principal

May 31, 2017

Dear Burch Charter School of Excellence Family,

I am pleased to inform you that Burch Charter School of Excellence has been chosen to participate in the School Climate Transformation Project sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), Offices of Student Support Services and Special Education Programs, and in collaboration with the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers University. Existing research suggests that student achievement improves in positive and healthy school environments (Kraft & Marinell, 2015; McNeill, Prater, & Busch, 2009). Measurement of school climate provides a snapshot of current community life at a specific point in time, and can describe a number of community characteristics including perceptions of safety among students, the quality of relationships between adults and students, the depth and breadth of support from administration and/or level of parent engagement. Through the utilization of the New Jersey School Climate Survey (NJSCS) over a three-year period, the information collected will help us initiate a data-driven process for developing a school-specific plan for school climate improvement.

Our first New Jersey School Climate Survey will be open to 3-5th grade students, staff, and parents **beginning on Monday, June 5, 2017 and closing on Friday, June 9, 2017**. Students will be given an opportunity to complete the Survey during school hours on June 5th, the only day on which the students will have access to the Survey. All responses are confidential.

Although parents and staff are free to complete the Survey at any time during this window, parents are welcome to complete the Survey in the school's Computer Lab any day during the week, promptly at either 8:15 am or 2:15 pm. We encourage all of our students, staff, and parents to complete the Survey. However, participation is completely voluntary and you may opt your child out of the survey in writing without penalty. To access the Survey, please go to [http://njclimateparentsurvey .com/](http://njclimateparentsurvey.com/) and you will be prompted to enter the school code for Burch Charter School of Excellence which is **BR21** starting on June 5th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

As a final reminder, our last day of school for this year is **Monday, June 26, 2017**.

Sincerely,

Mr. Theodore Boler, Principal

Cc: Y. Greene, Vice-Principal

Board of Trustees